

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 SS-15 NSC-05 /074 W

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R 169915Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4388

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, SF, WZ

SUBJECT: SWAZILAND BARITE DEVELOPMENTS

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

DEPT PASS COMMERCE, OPIC AND BUMINES

REF: A) MBABANE 2036(NOTAL B) JOHANNESBURG 1979 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SWAZILAND BARYTES LTD OWNER D.G. KLIPIN INFORMED MINERALS OFFICER SWEETWOOD JANUARY 13 THAT HE HAD SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH IMCO/HALLIBURTON FOR TRIAL SHIPMENT OF 1,300 METRIC TONS OF BENEFICIATED DRILLING MUD GRADE BARITE. THE TOTAL TONNAGE, TO BE DELIVERED PRIOR TO MARCH 15, WILL COME FROM THE FIRM'S LONDOSI RIVER VALLEY (SWAZILAND) MINE AND PILOT PLANT (REF B) AND IS TO BE CONSIGNED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S STATE-OWNED SOUTHERN OIL EXPLORATIOON CORP (PTY) LTD (SOEKOR), CAPETOWN. THIS FIRST EFFORT TO MOVE THIS OPERATION INTO HIGH GEAR IS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED

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TO POSSIBLE REPEAT POSSIBLE LONGER-RANGE IMCO/HALLIBURTON-SWAZILAND

BARYTE PARTNERSHIP CONSIDERATION,
BUT MAY WELL INFLUENCE FUTURE IMCO/HALLIBURTON DECISION (VIS-A-VIS
SWAZILAND BARYTES' ABILITY TO MEET CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS AND
EXPAND TO ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS AS REQUIRED).

2. KLIPIN SAID THAT THE TRIAL SHIPMENT IS TO BE DIVIDED INTO TWO
SEGMENTS:

(1) 500 TONS OF BENEFICIATED AND BAGGED PRODUCT TO BE DELIVERED
DURING JANUARY 15 - FEBRUARY 25 AND (2) AN ADDITIONAL 800 TONS
BY MARCH 15. SPECIFICATIONS CALL FOR A SPECIFIC GRAVITY MINIMUM
CUT-OFF OF 4.2 WITH NO GREATER THAN 5 PERCENT (BY VOLUME)
PLUS 200 MESH (TYLER). MINIMUM PARTICLE SIZE OF PRODUCT IS NOT
DEFINED, BUT FIELD TESTS WILL EXAMINE CAREFULLY UNDESIREABLE
COLLOIDAL CHARACTERISTICS (IF ANY) EXHIBITED BY THIS BARITE'S
MINUS 325 MESH (44 MICRON) FRACTION WHEN SLURRIED. CONTRACT
PRICE FOR THE SHIPMENT IS PEGGED AT RAND 62.00 (\$71.30)
PER METRIC TON F.A.S. CAPETOWN. END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. FYI: KLIPIN ADDED INTERESTING FOOTNOTE TO EFFECT THAT IMCO
RECENTLY "BORROWED" FOR RE-EXPORT 1,300 TONS OF BARITE FROM
SOEKOR CAPETOWN STOCKS TO MEET EMERGENCY DEMANDS IN NORWAY. THE
SWAZILAND SHIPMENT WILL THUS BE USED TO PAY BACK SOEKOR
AND INTRODUCE SWAZILAND BARITE TO WORLD MARKET
VIA CON ENIENTLY-CREATED NEED IN SOUTH AFRICA. END FYI.
GUTHRIE

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